

REMARKS

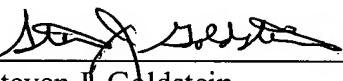
Claims 57-63 are in the present application. These claims correspond to claims 102-108 in the parent application. No new matter has been added.

In the parent case, claims 102-103 and 105-108 (corresponding to claims 57, 58, 60, 61, 62 and 63 in the present application) were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on WO 99/42153 (Barnes et al.) in view of U.S. Patent 6,503,481 (Thurston et al.). In that regard, Applicant would like to point out that since Thurston et al. was both filed and published after the priority date of the present application, it does not qualify as prior art against the present application. Accordingly, that rejection would be improper if applied to the present application.

Early consideration and allowance of the claims herein are earnestly solicited.

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